

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2885

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 0133

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT CY

SUBJECT: CLERIDES RESIGNATION

REF: NICOSIA 0128

1. FONMIN CHRISTOPHIDES HAS BRIEFED ME CONFIDENTIALLY
ON GENESIS AND DEVELOPMENTS COUCERNING CLERIDES' JAN 13
RESIGNATION.

2. AT JANUARY 13 MEETING OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS/NATIONAL
COUNCIL MAKARIOS INTRODUCED HIS CONCEPT OF ENLARGING GOC
NEGOTIATING TEAM BY ADDITION OF AN "ADVISORY BOARD" TO
GIVE CLERIDES "BROADER BASE". THE PROPOSAL WAS NOT PUT
AS TACTFULLY AS IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN. CLERIDES FELT THAT
ARCHBISHOP, WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH HIM, HAD
ALREADY DECIDED ON INDIVIDUALS HE WISHED TO NAME (WHICH
WE KNOW TO ZE THE CASE). CLERIDES TOOK THIS AS A SHOW
OF LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN A QUASI-PUBLIC FORUM AND
RESIGNED THEN AND THERE.

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3. ON JANUARY 14 A MEDIATION COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF CHRISTOPHIDES AND FINANCE MINISTER PATSALIDES WORKED BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN MAKARIOS AND CLERIDES IN AN EFFORT TO GET LATTER TO CHANGE HIS MIND. MINISTERS' EFFORTS WERE SUPPLEMENTED BY AN URGENT RECOMMENDATION FOR RECONSIDERATION PRESENTED ON BEHALF OF GOG BY GREEK AMBASSADOR DOUNTAS. THESE EFFORTS CULMINATED IN AGREEMENT TO HOLD EVENING MEETING JANUARY 14 BETWEEN ARCHBISHOP, CLERIDES AND THE TWO MINISTERS. CHRISTOPHIDES TELEPHONED ME AFTER THAT MEETING TO SAY THAT IT HAD BEEN INCONCLUSIVE; MEDIATION EFFORTS WOULD CONTINUE JANUARY 15.

4. FROM ANOTHER SOURCE, WE UNDERSTAND THAT CLERIDES MAY NOT HAVE INTENDED HIS RESIGNATION TO BECOME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE. THAT IT WAS IMMEDIATELY BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PRESS SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN THE WORK OF SOCIALIST LEADER LYSSARIDES, WHO WAS PRESENT AT THE MEETING, AS CALCULATED EFFORT TO PUB CLERIDES IN A CORNER. AS OF NOON JANUARY 15 GREEK AMBASSADOR TELLS ME HE IS "CAUTIOUSLY HOPEFUL" THIS WILL BE RESOLVED IN NEXT DAY OR TWO.

5. COMMENT: CLERIDES' OBVIOUS INTENT IN RESIGNING IS TO INITIATE A BARGAINING PROCEDURE THAT WILL HELP HIM RESIST ARCHBISHOP'S ATTEMPTS TO CIRCUMSCRIBE HIS NEGOTIATING LATITUDE TO THE MAXIMUM.
CRAWFORD

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